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piled about 1504 and was added to and corrected, but not improved, by later hands up to the year 1526. It is now manuscript 141 of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The catalogue consists of (1) a classified list of 1421 works, manuscript and printed, giving the title, shelf-number, name of donor and the first two words of the second folio of each work, (2) an alphabetical author-index. Miss Bateson has provided her edition of this work with an introduction, notes, a fac-simile page and several valuable supplements and appendices. Perhaps the most valuable of the original contributions, is the identification of more than 400 editions of the printed works by means of the catch-words. The identification of actual copies has been so difficult that only six volumes out of the whole number are known to be now in existence.

The value of the document itself is chiefly for the history of monastic life and for the history of books and libraries. Much of this has been drawn out by Miss Bateson in her introduction and notes. It appears that the monks had little use for anything but Latin,—one Hebrew, three Greek, four French, and twenty-six English works representing the total of alien tongues in this large library; but the Latin books showed a model literary taste, at the same time classical and up to date.

The catalogue touches civil history in the list of donors at several points, notably in the names of Richard Reynold, hanged for denying the royal supremacy in 1535, and Richard Whytford the friend of More.

In the matter of library history this catalogue contributes many interesting items. It was curiously modern in many respects. It was classified and its notation, in which the class-number is a letter and the book-number a figure, points to a system of "relative location," whether the numbers painted "*ad extra*" were on the book or on the case; if the former then it was strict "relative location." Miss Bateson reasons out, from the fact of the library losses, the presumption that the library was, like many other monastic libraries of the time, an outside-lending library. She fails, however, to note that the great number of duplicates, which she ascribes to the natural disinclination to refuse a gift, points in the same direction. If it were an outside-lending library duplication would be only natural.

Altogether, under the skillful handling of Miss Bateson this at first sight somewhat unfruitful-looking source suggests many an interesting line of research into the history of culture. The work of editing, as might have been expected, is excellently done.

ERNEST CUSHING RICHARDSON.

Ouvriers du Temps Passé (XV^e—XVI^e Siècles). Par H. HAUSER, Professeur à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Clermont-Ferrand. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1899. Pp. xxxviii, 252.)

WHETHER it is that the time we live in is an age of disenchantment or simply that every subject of investigation regularly passes from a first idyllic stage into later and calmer conceptions; whether our critical

powers in this generation are greater than our synthetic, or it is only that we look at things with clearer eyes ; certainly many of the best results of current scholarship reach their principal end in destroying earlier and more fanciful beliefs. The realistic pictures of the life of our Aryan progenitors drawn by the earlier students of comparative philology ; the broad generalizations of Kemble and Maine and Maurer in the field of primitive Teutonic and Celtic society and government ; the universal formulas of the first evolutionists, have all faded away and left us more exact knowledge, it is true, and more modern statements, but no new formulas, and none of those generalizations for which the human mind longs.

The work of M. Hauser is another evidence of this tendency, in a later field. He proves the worthlessness of all attempts to estimate the absolute value of wages and of the cost of living at any past epoch, a good instance of this difficulty being found in the fact that of two historians especially familiar with the fifteenth century one makes the value of a given weight of coined silver six times its present value, the other forty times. If this is so, the greater part of the work of Rogers in England, and of the Vicomte d'Avenel in France, and the generalizations based on them are valueless, and a direct comparison of the condition of laborers in the past with that in the present is impossible. Again he shows that the supposed homogeneity of labor, the universality of organization into guilds, and absence of competition, at least in France and in his period, are a delusion. There were a great many "free" artisans, both employers and journeymen, who carried on their industry quite outside of the guild limits. The corporate type was that to which all industry tended to conform, and which was supported by all the strength of the existing craft organization, of the civic and of the national government ; but after all it was only an ideal, never reached, and always needing to be struggled for by those interested in the crushing out of unorganized labor. In the sixteenth century in France, M. Hauser declares that "free" labor is the rule, labor organized into guilds is rather the exception. Again, the old "industrial peace" is disproved. Disputes between employers and employees on the question of wages are shown to have been scarcely less active in those centuries, especially in the sixteenth, the era of the influx of bullion from America, than in the nineteenth.

The general attitude of the book is therefore quite destructive to old traditions. It shatters some old idols, dissolves old glamour, and banishes old romance from still another field of history. Its actual subjects of inquiry are, however, treated positively enough and there is abundance of concrete statement. Valuable chapters are given on the policy of Louis XI. toward the industrial and trading organizations, on the position of apprentices and of journeymen, on the relations between employer and employee, on wages, on the possibilities of access by apprenticeship and journeymanship to an eventual mastership, on women's work, and on social and religious fraternities within the limits of the

crafts. There is besides a detailed and interesting account of a long strike among the printers at Lyons and at Paris from 1539 to 1542, which bears so many familiar marks that it is hard to realize that it took place centuries ago and not within recent decades.

The French are just beginning to realize what a splendid body of material for their social history is in existence and to exploit it with their usual keenness and industry. There are three volumes of gild statutes for the city of Paris which have been edited by M. de Lespinasse, and other similar collections are being made for other French cities. The abundance of documents of this kind is remarkable. The activity of royal administrative officials, the consistent effort which the kings made from the middle of the fifteenth century onward to bring under their own regulation the industrial classes from which so much of their pecuniary and moral support was drawn, brought about the habit of enregistration to a degree unknown in any other country of Europe. It is these registered ordinances, concessions, and agreements, in addition to royal decrees, to the chronicles, and to the pleadings in law-suits, that are now being utilized in such works as those of M. Fagniez and this of M. Hauser, to give us a quite new knowledge of earlier social conditions. That this knowledge is still not very well assimilated and generalized, that it is somewhat in the catalogue style is the principal, if not the only adverse criticism we have to make of the book under review.

E. P. CHEYNEY.

La France au Milieu du XVIII^e Siècle, d'après le Journal du Marquis d'Argenson. Publié par ARMAND BRETTE. (Paris: Armand Colin et Cie. 1898. Pp. xxxv, 413.)

THE memoirs of the Marquis of Argenson are familiar to students; they contain in eight portly volumes much that is interesting and much more that is unimportant. The marquis was a person of active mind, who for a few months was minister under Louis XV. In office, he showed himself a man of integrity, but not of sagacity; with the best of intentions he usually decided on the worst of policies.

All his life he kept a journal, in which he noted the news and rumors of the court, in which he devoted much space to the expression of his animosities, which were numerous, and still more space to his chances of political advancement, in which years of discouragement did not destroy his hopes. Mingled with a great deal that is valueless, are reflections on the condition of affairs that are striking from their justice, and conjectures as to the tendency of the French government, some of which proved to be marvellously near the truth. M. Armand Brette has undertaken to cull from these voluminous memoirs what is most valuable for historical students, and these he has put in one moderate sized volume. It is a work of some utility. The compilation of M. Brette presents in compact shape extracts, which together give us a picture of the condition of France in the middle of the last century. Argenson is, indeed, an au-